

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 21-38 are pending. New claims 21-38 are hereby added. Claims 1-20 are hereby canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

The disclosure was objected for allegedly containing informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that they have found no informalities. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner provide a specific reference to any informalities in the Specification.

The claims were objected to for allegedly containing informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment obviates these informalities.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 103(a)

Previous claims 1-2, 4, 7, 9-10, 15, 17-18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,688,747 to Wichiner et al. (hereinafter, merely "Wichner").

Previous claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Wichner.

As understood by Applicant, Wichner relates to an image projection system which improves the brightness and/or color balance of a projected image. The system includes an auxiliary light source from which compensating light co-propagates with polychromatic light emitted by a primary light source along a primary light path. The compensating light has an emission energy content that minimizes an emission energy imbalance introduced by the primary light source. The auxiliary light source may be affixed at a location near the entrance end of a light tunnel such that the compensating light coincides with the primary light path before first reflection occurs. The auxiliary light source may also be coupled coupled to a light reflector adjacent to the primary light source and thereby allows the compensating light to propagate through the image projection system with the same efficiency as that of the light generated by the primary light source.

Claim 21 recites, *inter alia*:

“... a plurality of light-emitting diodes, **positioned at substantially equal intervals**, located in a longitudinal direction on the interior surface of said elongated member.”
(Emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that Wichner does not disclose or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 21. Specifically, Wichner does not teach or suggest a plurality of light-emitting diodes, positioned at substantially equal intervals, located in a longitudinal direction on the interior surface of said elongated member, as recited in claim 21.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 is patentable.

Independent claims 28 and 36 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner's notice of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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